

PREPARED STATEMENT

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SECURITY
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For the

**House International Relations Subcommittee on
Africa, Global Human Rights and
International Operations**

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Introduction

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Payne, and members of the subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in support of the FY 2006 President's Budget request for the Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security under the Worldwide Security Upgrades account.

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security is charged with protecting the lives of our employees and families overseas, safeguarding national security information, and preserving US Missions overseas and domestic Department of State facilities. We perform criminal investigations in Departmental matters such as personnel clearances and visa and passport fraud. We also perform additional security/law enforcement duties when deemed in the interest of US foreign policy, such as the protection of President Karzai of Afghanistan, members of the Iraqi Governing Council, and the President of Haiti.

I wish to thank the members of the subcommittee for your past support of the State Department's security requirements. We have made many accomplishments in the area of security. I would like to talk about a few of these achievements.

For example:

- The successful defense of the US Consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, proved remarkably resistant to a heinous terrorist attack. Despite repeated attempts, the terrorists were not able to penetrate the consulate building, where our employees remained safe;
- The Bureau has conducted more than 1,200 investigations and made over 225 arrests for passport and visa fraud so far this calendar year; and
- FBI Director Robert Mueller commended the investigative skills of Diplomatic Security Special Agent Vincent Martinez, who rescued an American woman being held captive in Karachi.

In support of peace and stability efforts, Special Agents are currently protecting US contingents working towards Israeli-Palestinian peace, and have implemented the security framework that allowed Embassy Baghdad and the Regional Embassy Offices to open. We have also deployed personnel to other high threat environments such as Sudan, Kenya, and

Haiti. We have put in place the security personnel, equipment, and procedures that allowed the Department to open a U.S. Interests Section in Tripoli, Libya.

DS worked for over two years to coordinate security for the Athens 2004 summer Olympics. During the games, Special Agents protected the U.S. athletes, and staffed security coordination centers. For the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, a DS Olympic Security Coordinator is consulting with the Italian Government to coordinate security preparations.

FY 2006 Request

For FY 2006 the President requests \$689.5 million, an increase of \$39.6 million (6%) over the FY 2005 level, to maintain security programs for the protection of our diplomatic personnel, facilities, and information in the face of an increased terrorist threat. Security is an on-going effort, especially as the potential for large-scale terrorist attacks and continued physical and technological attacks remains at an historic high. DS manages a broad range of programs to create and maintain the appropriate level of security for more than 57,000 U.S. Government personnel, staff, and dependents who work and live at approximately 260 embassies, consulates, and other missions overseas.

Funding will:

- Strengthen and expand security programs and high threat protection capabilities;
- Allow the continuation of programs to maintain our security equipment and technical support, information and systems security, perimeter security, and security training;
- Continue defensive countermeasures that lessen our vulnerability to global terrorist threats, thwart attacks, and mitigate their effects;
- Strengthen the counterintelligence program by ensuring that reinvestigations of all DOS employees are completed every five years as required by Executive Order 12968. Through improved efficiency, the Department has been able to reduce by half the time required to complete the clearances. The DS average of four months compares very favorably to other U.S. agencies that issue clearances;

- Strengthen information security countermeasures to provide protection from increasingly sophisticated threats targeted at information technology and PC-based technical security systems; and
- Enhance procedural security programs essential for the protection of classified information.

To keep up with ever increasing demands, the Department requests your support to help us protect those we serve. The FY 2006 request will support an increase of 55 security personnel and \$39.6 million to strengthen security programs domestically and overseas including the following:

- In response to the rise in the number of emergencies overseas, we are requesting 13 additional Mobile Security Deployment team personnel and \$1.4 million. Increased threats and security training requirements necessitate that we have the additional personnel and resources to meet the demand. Current MSD personnel are over burdened due to the growing number of new and longer assignments.
- The High Threat Protection Program was developed in response to ever-increasing terrorist threat situations in which highly skilled special agents are required to protect designated U.S. personnel and certain foreign government leaders in very dangerous situations. This request asks for three more personnel and \$1.2 million to provide increased oversight over an ever more demanding program as well as provide additional training for our agents.
- The Department requests 25 additional Special Agent positions and \$2.6 million for our domestic field offices. These agents are essential to maintaining a viable investigative program in support of USG border security and counter-terrorism programs. Field offices are often called upon to supply the manpower needed to cover high threat protection assignments at our missions overseas due to increasing worldwide terrorism activities, which detracts from their core investigative duties.
- The Department requests an additional 14 Special Agents and \$1.5 million for protective intelligence investigations as part of the USG's Joint Terrorism Task Forces. These task forces represent the kind of

interagency collaboration called for in the 9/11 Commission report and other advisory commission reviews.

- In addition to these programmatic increases, the Department is requesting \$32.9 million to meet wage and price increase requirements.

Conclusion

As the Department finds itself operating in increasingly hostile locations worldwide, we have risen to the occasion, providing safe environments for the conduct of U.S. foreign policy. Agents, security engineers, couriers, analysts, and other DS personnel continue to make significant personal sacrifices to get the job done. Our agents have received the Department's Heroism Award for the support to Iraq embassy operations and for protecting the newly named Prime Minister and President. Agents have also received awards for actions taken during the Gaza motorcade attack and Iraq's Al Rasheed hotel attack.

America's prominent role in the Global War on Terror requires that we enhance security at US diplomatic facilities worldwide, and the demand for resources is high. The Department will undoubtedly face unforeseen crises in the coming years, as those who seek to do harm to the U.S. continue to develop new ways of attacking U.S. interests at home and abroad. Our ability to anticipate and respond effectively to these incidents creates challenges, but they are challenges that we can and will overcome in order to provide a safe and secure environment for the conduct of U.S. foreign policy.